THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air Corporations Employees Union (ACEU) representing around 12,200 employees, called for strike *w.e.f.* night shift of 12.6.2007 all over India. ACEU had been demanding revision of wages and allowances *w.e.f.* 1.1.1997 and better career progression. The negotiations in this regard were initiated way back in February, 2007 and when no satisfactory agreement was reached and the ACEU adopted an agitational approach, the matter was referred to the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) for conciliation. Even as the conciliation proceedings were underway with the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), the ACEU suddenly called for a flash strike. The strike was called off from the afternoon of 14th June, 2007 after tripartite discussions involving the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Management of Indian Airlines and the office bearers of ACEU.

(c) Indian Airlines being a Public Sector Enterprise, follows the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises on wages, allowances and other service conditions for its employees. The demands of ACEU with regard to wages and allowances were not in confirmity with these guidelines and Indian Airlines was not in a position to bear the high financial implications of these demands.

(d) Contingency plan was put into operation to deal with the situation and all efforts were made to ensure smooth operations of flights by deputing additional officers as well as engaging casuals and contract workers. To minimize/avoid harassment to customers, proper and timely dissemination of information regarding flight position was ensured through Indian Airlines' call centres.

Incidents of crash of helicopters

310. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of crash of helicopters in different parts of the country have increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, how many cases of minor and major accidents of helicopters have been reported during the last three years; and

(c) what are the results of the enquiries conducted by the DGCA and steps taken to prevent such mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) During the last three years 7 accidents and 5 serious incidents to helicopters have been reported. 3 accidents and 1 serious incident has been reported in 2007 (till date). 1 accident and 1 serious incident were reported in 2006 and 3 accidents and 3 serious incidents were reported in 2005.

(c) All accidents/incidents are investigated as per the procedure contained in the Aircraft Rules and necessary corrective measures are taken based on the recommendations made in the investigation report to avoid recurrence of such mishaps.